

Serial No.: 09/678,544
Art Unit: 2682

Attorney's Docket No.: FUR0011-US
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Remarks: begin on page 14 of this paper.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-18 were pending in this application. Claims 5, 10, and 12-15 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 2, 11, and 17 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-9, 11, and 16-18 will be pending herein upon entry of this Amendment. For the reasons stated below, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action mailed July 9, 2004, claims 2, 5, 10, 11, and 16-18 were rejected; claims 12-15 were withdrawn from consideration; and claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-9 were allowed. To the extent that rejections might still be applied to claims 2, 11, and 16-18, they are respectfully traversed.

Examiner Lerner is thanked for the indication that claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-9 were allowed.

By this amendment, and to advance prosecution, claims 5, 10, and 12-15 have been canceled and claims 2 and 11 have been amended to include substantially the same subject matter set forth in allowed claim 1.

None of the references cited by the examiner teaches or suggests all of the claimed features set forth in amended claims 2 and 11. Claims 16-18 depend from claim 11 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 11 is allowable.

Regarding the objections to the drawings, "determinig" in Fig. 5 has been changed to "determining" and "ponting" in Fig. 7 has been changed to "pointing" in the attached

replacement sheets. Therefore, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw these objections to the drawings.

Regarding the objections to the specification, Applicants have amended the specification as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw these objections to the specification.

Finally, regarding the objection to claim 17, Applicant has amended "and lengthened and lengthened" to "and lengthened." Therefore, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw this objection to claim 17.

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

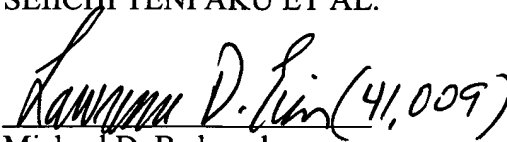
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Date: October 8, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

SEIICHI TENPAKU ET AL.

By:


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Attachments: 2 replacement sheets

MDB/LDE/CDW
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